

**Abstract:**

Community service is defined as voluntary or involuntary work done by individuals to provide service to disadvantaged groups or public areas. While community service has numerous benefits, it only focuses on unidimensional service and caters to a current need setting nothing in place to implement substantial change in the future. In contrast, service learning focuses on reciprocity and sets a foundation to create changes in communities. Service learning is defined as an organized collaborative process that requires individuals to actively participate in service projects. Community service is often viewed as volunteerism rather than service learning. Individuals often times tend to establish barriers between the provider and the person receiving help and never focusing on gaining anything from the group or person being assisted.

Service learning is important because it allows individuals to become aware about important issues, gain new perspectives and provides learning experiences for volunteers as well as individuals from underserved groups. Because of the numerous benefits, college students should enroll in the Service Learning courses or service learning based programs. These programs allows students to move away from the dualism versus unity point of view and focus on reciprocity and provides the skills necessary to approach future service experiences with a service learning perspective.

### **Works Cited**

Panther Breakaway. (n.d.). *Panther Breakaway*. Retrieved February 2, 2014, from

<http://www2.gsu.edu/%7Ewwwpba/index.shtml>

Stewart, T., & Webster, N. (2011). *Exploring Culture Dynamics and Tensions With Service-Learning*. Charlotte: Information Age Publishing.